



SECTION II: COURT STATISTICS



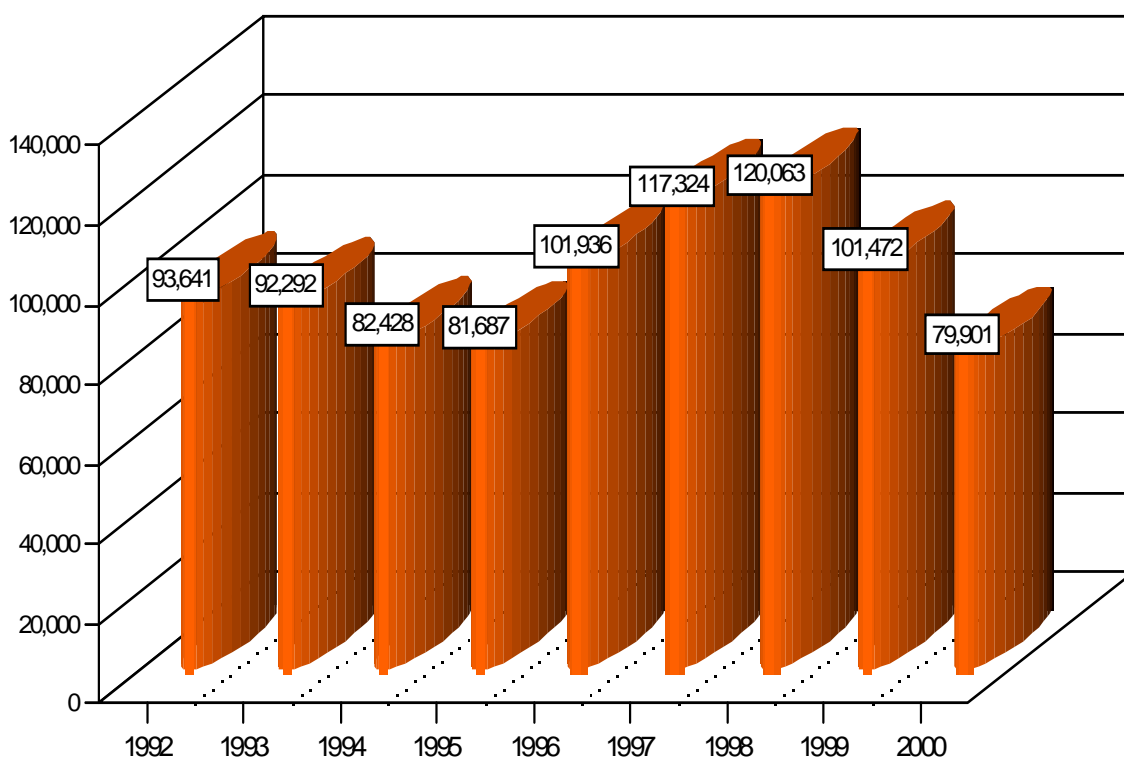
COURT STATISTICS

Decline In Bankruptcy Case and Adversary Proceeding Filings Continues

Mirroring a national trend of declining bankruptcy filings, a total of 79,901 bankruptcy cases were filed in the Central District of California during 2000. This represents a 21.3% decrease from the 101,472 cases filed in 1999 and a 33.5% decrease from the record 120,063 cases filed in 1998. During 2000, bankruptcy case filings declined in all five divisions of the Court and in every chapter of bankruptcy, except chapter 11. During the year, chapter 7 filings declined by 22.4%, chapter 13 filings declined by 17.5%, while chapter 11 filings increased by 22.6%. (See Exhibit 9.) The increase in chapter 11 filings in 2000 resulted from the number of large cases filed with multiple related entities, each of which filed a separate bankruptcy case. In the year 2000, 20 chapter 11 cases with an additional 161 related cases were filed, compared to 1999 when 21 chapter 11 cases were filed with only 41 related cases. Filings of adversary proceedings in 2000 decreased by 15.8% from the prior year. (See Exhibit 15.)

The following graph illustrates bankruptcy case filing statistics from 1992 through 2000.

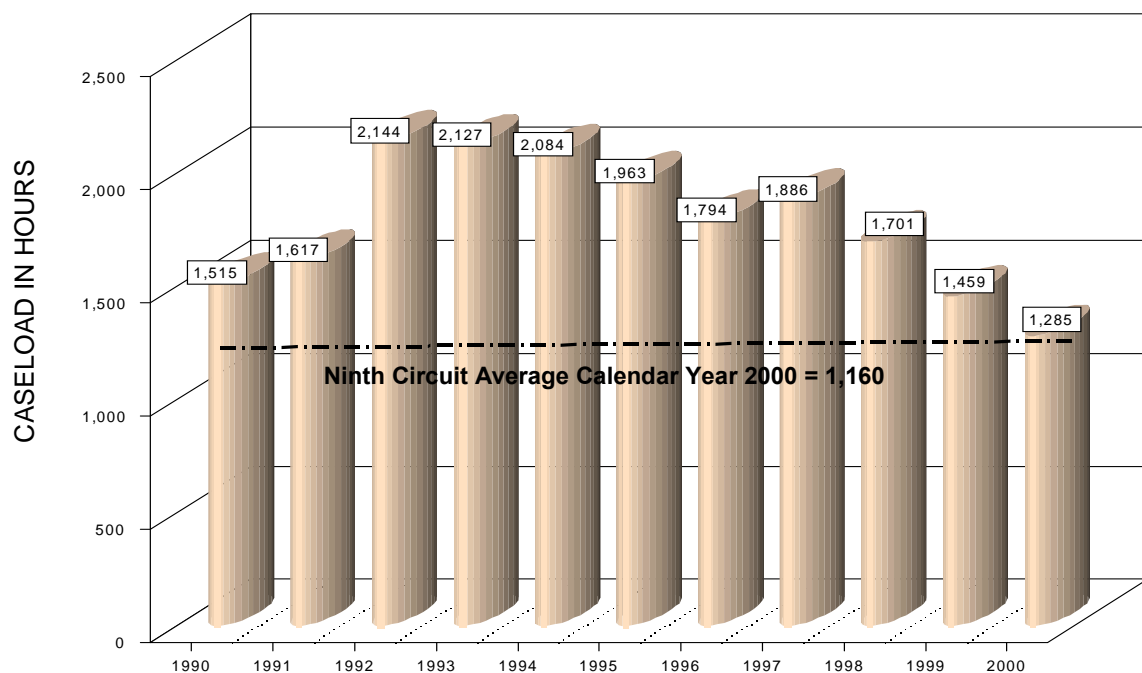
Figure 11
Central District of California - Bankruptcy Court
Bankruptcy Filings: 1992-2000



Judge Weighted Caseload Remains Above Ninth Circuit Average

In March 1991, the Judicial Conference approved the bankruptcy case weights developed in the *Bankruptcy Judge Time Study* by the Federal Judicial Center. Initially established primarily for evaluating requests for additional judgeships, the weights also provide useful information about judicial workloads and facilitate judicial workload comparisons with other bankruptcy courts. For the 12 months ending December 2000, the average weighted caseload per Central District bankruptcy judge was 1,285 caseload hours, or 10.8% more than the 1,160 hour Ninth Circuit average. (See Figure 12 below.)

Figure 12
Central District of California - United States Bankruptcy Court
Annualized Weighted Caseload per Judgeship: 1990-2000



Bankruptcy Case and Adversary Proceeding Closings

During 2000, the Court closed 88,971 bankruptcy cases, outpacing the 79,901 cases filed during the year by 11.4% (9,070 cases). A total of 5,273 adversary proceedings were closed during 2000, or 613 more than the 4,660 adversary proceedings filed during the year. To help manage the closing effort throughout the year, the district established closing goals for various types of bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings.

Figure 13
Central District of California - Bankruptcy Court
Bankruptcy Cases Closed vs. Filings: 1991-2000

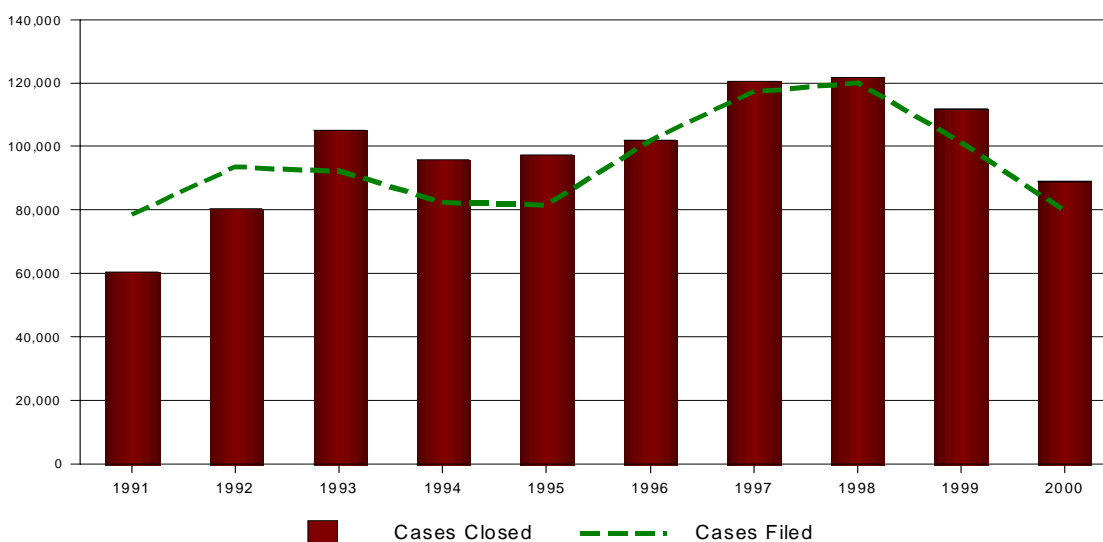
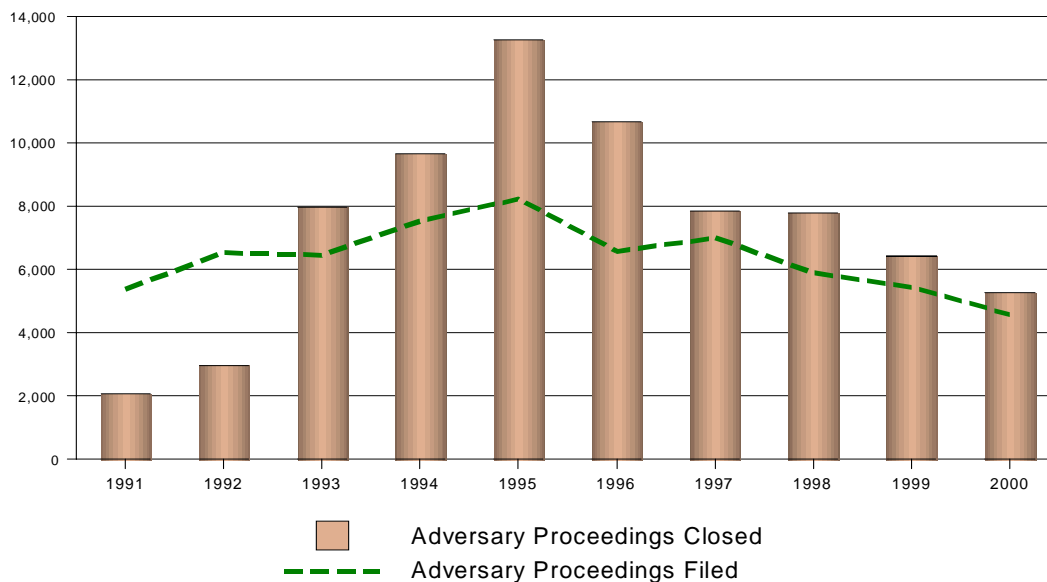


Figure 14
Central District of California - Bankruptcy Court
Adversary Proceedings Closed vs. Filings: 1991-2000



Number of Relief From Automatic Stay Motions Decrease

The number of relief from the automatic stay motions filed in the Central District continued the decrease of recent years. In calendar year 2000, a total of 17,940 motions were filed in the district, representing a decrease of 29.5% from the 25,430 motions filed in 1999. This decline can be attributed to the prompt dismissal of incomplete petitions before creditors can file a motion for relief from stay; the enforcement by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department of C.C.P. 715.050, which allows an eviction to proceed without an order lifting the automatic stay when the debtor has filed a bankruptcy subsequent to the notice of eviction; and also to the decrease in the number of cases filed in 2000.

2000 Unlawful Detainer and Mill Case Incidence Study

Sample data collected from the case files for petitions filed in April of 2000 indicated an overall upturn in the number of petitions filed to stop/delay eviction in the district. The 1999 findings indicated that 5.4% of the petitions filed involved an unlawful detainer, while in 2000 the percentage of petitions with unlawful detainer actions increased to 8.5%. (See Table 14 below) However, analysis of the data indicated that in 83% of these petitions, the debtor had representation.

Bankruptcy mill involvement in filing bankruptcy petitions was determined to be very low. (A bankruptcy mill is a non-attorney who prepares frequently misleading and sometimes fraudulent petitions. The debtors for whom they prepare petitions are often misled with respect to the facts and repercussions of filing for bankruptcy.) Based on the cases sampled, only 0.3% of bankruptcy petitions filed were prepared by mills.

Table 14 PERCENT OF BANKRUPTCY CASES THAT ARE UNLAWFUL DETAINER FILINGS: 1991-2000							
Year	Los Angeles (inc. ND/SFV)	Los Angeles	San Fernando Valley (SFV)	Northern (ND)	Santa Ana	Riverside	District Total
1991	22.4%	*	*	*	10.9%	2.6%	16.9%
1992	12.9%	*	*	*	9.4%	6.4%	11.0%
1993	11.9%	12.8%	*	1.3%	3.2%	1.2%	8.3%
1994	13.3%	14.5%	12.4%	7.0%	4.0%	2.3%	9.5%
1995	3.2%	3.5%	4.2%	0.2%	1.4%	3.6%	3.0%
1996	10.9%	11.2%	12.7%	3.5%	2.2%	7.3%	8.8%
1997	10.4%	10.2%	12.8%	5.4%	6.9%	1.2%	8.0%
1998	9.0%	10.2%	7.4%	3.3%	3.8%	3.7%	7.1%
1999	6.6%	6.8%	6.8%	3.5%	4.6%	2.4%	5.4%
2000	4.8%	3.4%	7.6%	9.8%	8.3%	11.9%	8.5%

*Included in the Los Angeles Division numbers.

Although the number of unlawful detainer petitions has increased, the increase occurred in petitions not prepared by the mills. Only 4.5% of the unlawful detainer petitions in the study sample were prepared by mills, compared to 27% in 1999.

Table 15
PROJECTED ANNUAL UNLAWFUL DETAINER FILINGS: 1991-2000

Year	Los Angeles (inc. ND/SFV)	Los Angeles	San Fernando Valley (SFV)	Northern (ND)	Santa Ana	Riverside	District Total
1991	11,152	*	*	*	1,298	382	12,832
1992	7,602	*	*	*	1,307	1,170	10,079
1993	6,860	6,804	*	56	436	225	7,521
1994	6,604	4,931	1,292	381	512	390	7,506
1995	1,607	1,167	429	11	182	656	2,445
1996	6,907	4,792	1,926	189	337	1,621	8,865
1997	7,639	5,022	2,265	352	1,408	271	9,318
1998	6,877	5,355	1,321	201	659	949	8,485
1999	4,383	3,204	1,014	165	584	518	5,485
2000	2,439	1,223	881	362	813	2,244	5,523

*Included in the Los Angeles Division numbers.

Pro Se Filings

From 1994 through 2000, the number of chapter 7 and 13 cases filed *pro se* (filed by an individual not represented by an attorney) averaged about 34%, one of the highest rates in the country. The following table shows the estimated number of *pro se* filings from 1994 through 2000. As can be seen in the table, the percentage of *pro se* filings has declined since 1994. It is believed that this trend results in part from enforcement of C.C.P. 715.050 by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which reduces the benefits of the automatic stay (see article: *Number of Relief from Automatic Stay Motions Decrease*, page 50). The number of *pro se* filings is significant because it adversely impacts the judicial and Clerk's Office workloads in the Court.

Table 16
Central District of California - Bankruptcy Court
Estimated Percentage of *Pro Se* Filings District-Wide: 1994-2000

Year	Chapter 7	Chapter 13	Total
1994	40%	44%	42%
1995	36%	35%	36%
1996	35%	38%	36%
1997	37%	37%	37%
1998	32%	32%	32%
1999	33%	29%	31%
2000	27%	19%	24%
Average	35%	33%	34%